

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended as follows: Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strike through~~ or ~~[[double square brackets]]~~ indicate deletions.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] In this embodiment, the telescopic hoist 10 comprises a tubular housing 12, and a series of tubular sections 14, 16, 18 and 20. The tubular housing 12 is closed at a first end thereof by a plate 22, which is secured to the innermost tubular section 20 by a bolt ~~[[23]]~~ and a nut 24. A second end of the tubular housing 12 is opened to receive the telescopically arranged tubular sections 14, 16, 18 and 20 therein.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] The outermost tubular section 14 comprises a head 26, provided with a hydraulic inlet port 28 allowing a fluid to be introduced in a first area enclosed between the head 26 and a piston head 30 of a piston 53, 62 of the second tubular section 16. The second tubular section 16 is provided with an opening 32 allowing the fluid to be received in a second area enclosed between the piston head 30 of the second tubular section 16 and a piston head 34 of a piston 57, 64 of the third tubular section 18. The third tubular section 18 in turn is provided with an opening 36 allowing the fluid to exert pressure on a piston head 38 of a piston 61,66 of the fourth tubular section 20.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] As can be best seen in Figure 2, the piston heads 30, 34, and 38 are shown respectively with a U-shaped cup bore seal 42, 46 and 50, sliding inside respective tubular sections 14, 16 and 18. The U-shaped cup bore seals 42, 46 and 50 provide a sealing wall between the areas where the fluid is present (on the left handside thereof in Figure 1) and the ambient air, air being maintained in front of pistons 53, 57 and 61.